

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FAS FOR MANNION FROM AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, HU
SUBJECT: DUTCH CATTLE SALES TO HUNGARY

1. AGATT MET HEGEMANS, THE DUTCH AGATT IN VIENNA, ACCREDITED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY TOO. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS MADE BY HEGEMANS.

2. HUNGARY BOUGHT OVER 2,000 HEAD OF DUTCH CATTLE IN 1976 THE GREAT BULK IN DUAL PURPOSE BLACK AND WHITE HOLSTEINS. THIS IS DUE TO AN APPARENT REVERSAL OF POLICY FROM DEVELOPING SEPARATE MILK AND MEAT CATTLE BREEDS BACK TO A DUAL PURPOSE CATTLE BREEDING PROGRAM.

3. HEGEMANS SAID DUTCH CATTLE WHILE GIVE LESS MILK THAN U.S. SISTERS, ITS YIELD OF MEAT IS MUCH GREATER. ALSO, HUNGARY IS POORLY EQUIPPED WITH EXPECTS TO HANDLE HIGH MILK YIELDING AMERICAN HOLSTEINS. FOR EFFICIENT RESULTS, IT REQUIRES EXTREMELY CAREFUL MANAGEMENT. BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED DEVELOPING SUCH DAIRY MANAGEMENT, HUNGARY DECIDED TO REVERT TO A BREEDING PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE STOCK OF ITS OWN DUAL PURPOSE CATTLE WITH BETTER PERFORMING DUAL PURPOSE IMPORTS.

4. HEGEMANS ACKNOWLEDGED DUTCH CATTLE IS SOLD UNDER EXPORT
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SUBSIDY BUT THIS NOT MAJOR FACTOR IN SUDDEN SPURT OF CATTLE

IMPORTS FROM HOLLAND. HE SAID DUTCH CATTLE CAN BE DELIVERED AT \$800 PER HEAD TO HUNGARY WITHOUT EXPORT SUBSIDIES. WITH SUBSIDIES, OF COURSE, CATTLE PRICES CAN BE BROUGHT DOWN SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THIS LEVEL.

5. COMMENTS. REPORTED CHANGES IN HUNGARY'S CATTLE BREEDING PROGRAM COMES AS A SURPRISE. UNTIL NOW AGATT BELIEVED HUNGARY'S POLICY TO DEVELOP SEPARATE MILK AND MEAT CATTLE WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. THIS VIEW WAS VOICED SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST BY RESPONSIBLE HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MR. ROMANY, THE HUNGARIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AS RECENTLY AS EARLY OCTOBER. AGATT SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT HEGEMANS' VIEWS. RATHER BELIEVE HEGEMANS TENDS TO DOWN PLAY IMPORTANCE EEC CATTLE EXPORT SUBSIDY AND LOW CATTLE PRICES AS A MAJOR REASON FOR INCREASED DUTCH CATTLE SALES TO HUNGARY. BUCHANAN

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